

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (cancelled).

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (new):

4. A method of enabling a user to conduct a simulated interactive conversation with multiple and selectable living, deceased or imaginary personalities or characters comprising the steps of:

providing a database of stored images of a plurality of living, deceased or imaginary personalities or characters;

storing in said database computer searchable information in the form of a collection of text and/or oral recorded or computer generated statements associated with said living, deceased or imaginary personalities or characters;

allowing the user to select the identity of the character or personality the user wishes to communicate with;

allowing the user to interrogate the database orally or through a user interface with questions directed to the selected character or personality;

analyzing the questions and assembling an appropriate response from the database associated with the selected personality or character; and

communicating the response to the user.

Claim 5 (new):

5. A method of enabling a user to conduct a simulated interactive conversation with multiple and selectable simulated living, deceased or imaginary personalities or characters based on information in a database comprising the steps of:

providing a database of stored images of a plurality of living, deceased or imaginary personalities or characters, including at least one host character;

providing a database of computer searchable information in the form of text or oral or computer generated statements associated with said personalities, characters and host;

generating an image of the host and a predetermined greeting to the user;

generating one or more questions by the host from the database for the user in order to permit the user to select a personality, character or personality/character menu;

understanding the answers to the questions from the host and generating an image of the personality or character selected by the user;

initiating a conversation between the user and selected personality or character by generating an introductory comment from the selected personality or character from a previously stored set of one or more introductory comments in the database respectively associated with the personality or character;

understanding questions or statements presented by the user to the selected personality or character; and

generating a response to the user from said database based on the content of the question.

Claim 6 (new):

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said steps of generating questions from the host, initiating conversation between the selected personality or character and generating a response to the user each comprise generating a text message.

Claim 7 (new):

7. The method of claim 5 wherein said steps of generating questions from the host, initiating conversation between the selected personality or character and generating a response to the user each comprise generating a speech response.

Claim 8 (new):

8. The method of claims 5 or 6 wherein said understanding steps comprise understanding text messages.

Claim 9 (new):

9. The method of claims 5 or 7 wherein said understanding steps comprise understanding speech messages.

Claim 10 (new):

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said steps of generating an image of the host and the selected personality or character includes synchronizing movement of the image's face and lips to coordinate with the generated responses.

Claim 11 (new):

11. The method of claim 5 including the steps of maintaining accessibility to the host during conversation between the user and the selected personality or character and generating help responses from the host to questions posed to the host during such conversations.

Claim 12 (new):

12. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of generating an image of the selected personality or character and initiating a conversation between the user and the selected

personality or character includes formulating the image's response to reflect the personal characteristics of the selected personality or character.

Claim 13 (new):

13. The method of claim 5 including the step of allowing the user to terminate the conversation at anytime.

Claim 14 (new):

14. The method of claim 13 including generating the image of the host when the user attempts to terminate a conversation and generating a closing salutation from the host.

Claim 15 (new):

15. The method of claim 14 including offering the user in said closing salutation the opportunity to select another personality or character to converse with.

Claim 16 (new):

16. The method of claim 5 wherein said database is at a remote location from the user and the interactive conversation is conducted over the world wide web.

Claim 17 (new):

17. The method of claim 16 including the step of the host asking the user for comments on the conversation and/or to identify personalities or characters of interest to the user and not available on the database.

Claim 18 (new):

18. The method of claim 5 including the step of including in said database historical film and/or photographic images associated with at least some of the personalities or

characters in the database and displaying such images in context with an associated response to a new question.

Claim 19 (new):

19. The method of claim 18 including the step of including in said database text information such as magazine articles, book excerpts, speech texts and the like associated with at least some of the personalities in the database and displaying such images in context with an associated response to the user.

Claim 20 (new):

20. A method for conducting conversations between a user and multiple and selectable, simulated living, deceased or imaginary personalities or characters over the world wide web comprising the steps of

maintaining a database at a remote location accessible by a user over the world wide web;

accessibly storing on said database images of a plurality of personalities and characters along with words, comments and statements associated with said personalities or characters;

allowing the user to access the database and select a particular personality or character to converse with;

allowing the user to interrogate the selected personality through text or speech communication;

understanding the user communication and generating an intelligible and appropriate response thereto while generating an image of the selected personality or character and synchronizing facial and lip movements of the image to the response; said image movements and response being generated to reflect the selected personality or character's personal characteristics.

Claim 21 (new):

21. The method of claim 20 including generating an image of a host and a predetermined greeting when the user accesses the database.

Claim 22 (new):

22. The method of claim 21 including generating one or more questions by the host from the database which are posed to the user orally or by text in order to prompt the user to select a personality, character or a personality/character menu from which a specific personality or character can be selected.

Claim 23 (new):

23. The method of claims 20, 21 or 22 including initiating a conversation between the user and selected personality or character by generating an introductory comment from the selected personality or character.

Claim 24 (new):

24. The method of claims 21 or 22 including the steps of maintaining accessibility to the host during conversation between the user and the selected personality or character and generating help responses from the host to questions posed to the host during such conversations.

Claim 25 (new):

25. The method of claim 20 including the step of allowing the user to terminate the conversation at anytime.

Claim 26 (new):

26. The method of claim 21 or 22 including the step of allowing the user to terminate the conversation at anytime.

Claim 27 (new):

27. The method of claim 26 including the steps of maintaining accessibility to the host during conversation between the user and the selected personality or character and generating help responses from the host to questions posed to the host during such conversations.

Claim 28 (new):

28. The method of claim 27 including offering the user in said closing salutation the opportunity to select another personality or character to converse with.

Claim 29 (new):

29. The method of claim 28 including the step of the host asking the user for comments on the conversation and/or to identify personalities or characters of interest to the user and not available on the database.

Claim 30 (new):

30. The method of claim 20 including the step of including in said database historical film and/or photographic images associated with at least some of the personalities or characters in the database and displaying such images in context with an associated response to a new question.

Claim 31 (new):

31. The method of claim 30 including the step of including in said database text information such as magazine articles, book excerpts, speech texts and the like associated with at least some of the personalities in the database and displaying such images in context with an associated response to the user.